Amendments to the Specification:

On page 55, please replace the fifth paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

--Human liver cDNA was synthesized using a standard cDNA synthesis kit following the manufacturers' instructions. The template for the cDNA synthesis was mRNA isolated from Hep G2 cells [ATCC HB-8065] using a standard RNA isolation kit. An open-reading frame for SYKKD was amplified from the human liver cDNA by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the following primers:

Forward primer: GAGGAGATCAGGCCCAAG (SEQ ID NO:1)

Reverse primer: CGTTCACCACGTCATAGTAG (SEQ ID NO:2)--

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 55-56 with the following amended paragraph:

--The PCR product (840 base pairs expected) was electrophoeresed on a 1.2% E-gel (Cat. #G5018-01), Invitrogen Corporation) and the appropriate size band was excised from the gel and eluted using a standard gel extraction kit. The eluted DNA was TOPO ligated into a GATEWAY™ (Invitrogen Corporation) adapted pcDNA6 AttB HisC vector which was custom TOPO adapted by Invitrogen Corporation. The resulting sequence of the gene after being TOPO ligated into the vector, from the start sequence through the stop site was as follows: ATGGCCCTT 3' [SYK] KD5' AAGGGCATCATCACCATCACCACTGA (SEQ ID NO:3). The SYKKD expressed using this vector has an N-terminal methionine, the kinase domain of SYKKD, and a C terminal 6 X His-tag.--